

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT NO. 25X1
TOPIC Military Information from the Post and Exercises in the Rathenow Area.

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EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT 24 September 1952 to 4 October 1952
DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 24 October 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS 25X1

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1. During the period from 24 to 26 September 1952, a large-scale exercise involving tanks, armored personnel carriers, rocket launchers, AAA, motorcycles and air force was observed in the area of Rathenow. A column observed in the vicinity of the training area consisted of armored personnel carrier

and field kitchen
The column transported troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery or tank insignia.

Four-wheel
armored personnel carriers Four-barreled AAA vehicles

On 26 September,
troops crossed the Havel River near Suetzer south of Rathenow by means of a temporary bridge. T-34/85 tanks

trucks
mounting an AA gun, rocket launchers
and other motor vehicles
motorcycles crossing the bridge. The troops which had been engaged in training were loaded at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station, Premnitz railroad station and Rathenow main railroad station. The following observations were made:

on 26 September, Rathenow-Nord railroad station: 152-mm field howitzers with

on 27 September, Premnitz railroad station: Motorcycle troops with trucks

on 28 September, Rathenow main railroad station: 152-mm field howitzers with trucks

on 28 September, Rathenow main railroad station: 120-mm mortars with trucks

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

2. During the period from 24 September to 4 October, only a little vehicular traffic was noticed between the barracks installations of Rathenow. On 26 September, 25 factory new, two-axle trucks were unloaded at the Nordbahnhof. On 3 October, recruits from the U.S.S.R. were detrained from 47 boxcars at the same railroad station. About 100 recruits wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. They marched to the Infanterie Kaserne. On 4 October, the Soviet stores which had been kept in town were transferred to the Infanterie Kaserne on the Nordbahnhof. The German employees were discharged during the same period. [redacted]

3. During the period from 2 to 4 October, Camp Premnitz south of Rathenow was occupied by about 45 to 50 rocket launchers and about 170 trucks. [redacted]

Comment. [redacted] similar observations [redacted] on exercises in the Rathenow-Mennhausen-Vieritz area from 23 to 26 September by elements of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army. [redacted] The preliminary loading of units of the Army after the completion of the training on 26 September was previously reported [redacted] The above shipments which departed on and after 27 September [redacted]

[redacted] carried units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div and army troops back to their posts. [redacted]

Comment. [redacted] the elements of the 6th Arty Div were not back at their main post by 4 October. The arrival of recruits corresponds with other information from Eastern Germany, according to which the replacement of personnel started on 19 September. As the 6th Arty Div is carried in the Infanterie Kaserne, it is conceivable that the stores were transferred into this barracks installation.

Comment. The information tends to indicate that the majority of the 25th RL Brig returned to its quarters in early October 1952 [redacted] that a train [redacted] went from Lantwinkl to Premnitz on 2 October. [redacted]

25X1

SECRET